Development of 'Paudi Bhuyan' and 'Juang' Community

2429. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmenthave launched any scheme for the development of 'Paudi Bhuyan' and 'Juang' community in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of people in such communities who are benefited under the centrally sponsored schemes during last three years; and

(c) the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment does not provide any fund directly for the development of 'Paudi Bhuyan' and 'Juang' Community in Orissa. However, these communities have been identified as Primitive Tribal Groups in that State. Government of India provides lump-sum special central assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan for socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes. A part of the assistance is provided by the State Government to the identified Primitive Tribal Groups in that State for implementation of various programmes for their socio-economic development.

(b) and (c) Community wise details of beneficiaries under Centrally Sponsored Schemes are not maintained.

Representation from "Godavari Districts Athirasu Welfare Association"

2430. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from the "Godavari districts Athirasu Welfare Association" in Andhra Pradesh on their lack of proper classification of backward caste status;

(b) if so, the details of the representation received;

(c) what steps will be taken to examine this representation from the "Athirasu" community;

(d) whether it is a fact that this association has been representing their problems for some time; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to expeditiously examine this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the association has requested that Athirasu caste community be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has given directions in the Indira Sawhney case to the Government of India and all State Governments to set up a permanent body for entertaining, examining and recommending upon the requests of inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes. Accordingly, National Commission for Backward Classes was reconstituted on 28.02.97 under NCBC Act, 1993. The Central Government acts only on the advice tendered by the Commission. The National Commission for Backward Classes has so far not made any recommendations in respect of this caste.

(d) and (e) The association has been advised to approach the National Commission for Backward Classes in the matter.

Abolition of Practice of Human Pulling Rickshaws

2431. PROF. M. SANKARV LINGAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps his Ministry has taken to abolish human pulling rickshaws;